

## THE ULTIMATUM

To Spain Will be Signed by the President To-Day

TOGETHER WITH THE JOINT RESOLUTION

Passed by Congress Early Yesterday Morning—It Will Demand Compliance

With the Demands Expressed in the Resolutions Within Twenty-four Hours—The Delay is Solely on Account of Perfecting a Definite Line of Action—There is now no hope of a Peaceful Solution of the Difficulty.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 19.—Spain will not receive official notification of the demands of the United States before to-morrow. She then will be informed that the Cuban resolutions passed by Congress at an early hour this morning, are now a part of the laws of the United States, and an ultimatum will be sent demanding compliance with this law, and an answer within a very short time, probably twenty-four hours. Compliance is not expected, and a forward movement on Cuba will commence the latter part of this week, according to the plans of the administration.

THE CONGRESSIONAL CUBAN RESOLUTION WILL NOT BE SIGNED UNTIL TO-MORROW MORNING. THE ULTIMATUM TO SPAIN WILL BE SIGNED AT THE SAME TIME. THE PRESIDENT EARLY DECIDED TO MAKE THE TWO PRACTICALLY ONE ACT, BY A SIMULTANEOUS SIGNATURE OF EACH.

Two cabinet meetings were held during the day, the first beginning at 11 and lasting nearly two hours, and the second lasting from 3 until 5:30 o'clock. At their close announcement that executive action was delayed until to-morrow was made. Both cabinet sessions were devoted principally to discussion of the ultimatum to be sent to Madrid. At the morning session the President rather favored allowing the Madrid government two or even three days in which to reply to our demand, but since that time, he has changed his views somewhat and it is now believed to be his purpose to require an answer within a very short time, probably within twenty-four hours.

Reason for limiting the time to one day or less, is said to be entirely strategic, otherwise, two or even three days would have been allowed.

The ultimatum itself, it is believed, will be short and to the point. It will recite the main features of the resolutions passed by Congress, and demand a compliance therewith.

SO FAR AS COULD BE LEARNED, THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING OF THE CABINET THIS EVENING OR TO-MORROW MORNING BEFORE THE PRESIDENT SIGNS THE TWO DOCUMENTS, WHICH, IT IS BELIEVED, UNQUESTIONABLY, WILL PRECIPITATE WAR.

It is likely that the President and Assistant Secretary Day will this evening go over the message which is to be sent to Madrid and make any changes which may be thought desirable, leaving the final act of signing the congressional resolution and the ultimatum until to-morrow morning. It probably will not be made public here until notice is received that it is in the hands of the Spanish government, diplomatic etiquette requiring this.

The Cuban resolution passed by Congress arrived at the white house at 1:15 o'clock. It was expected that the resolution would be signed immediately it reached the President, and this was Mr. McKinley's inclination, but for certain state reasons, it was deemed advisable that the resolution and the ultimatum to Spain should be signed simultaneously, and time was needed to draft the ultimatum in diplomatic form.

Case of Delay. The fact that the resolution was not immediately signed gave rise to a few disquieting reports, but it soon appeared from statements of cabinet officers that the President had NOT THE SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF WITHHOLDING HIS SIGNATURE, and that the delay in attaching it was accounted for solely by his desire to have a full and complete plan of operations for the government of the executive in the immediate future before turning the final and important step of turning the joint resolution into a statute.

Just what this plan shall be was the occasion for the two cabinet meetings to-day. The first session in anticipation of the reception of the resolution was devoted largely to questions of finance and military policy, as well as to the framing of the ultimatum itself. So far as can be gathered the important point at issue in regard to the ultimatum was the question of time to be allowed for a response on the part of Spain.

The steady progress of military and naval preparations indicated the conviction on the part of the administration that a peaceful solution of existing difficulties is not probable.

As to Future Events. As to the course of events in the immediate future, the only prediction that can be made is one based on precedents. According to these, Minister Woodford will notify the Spanish government of the action of the government of the United States and, should the Spanish answer be unsatisfactory, as is expected the next step in order will be for him to ask for his passports and leave Madrid. That would be followed instantly by the withdrawal from Washington of Senator Polo, the Spanish minister.

At this point, it can be said that the state department officials are confident that the Spanish government will so shape every phase of the negotiations as to oblige us to take the initiative at every point.

AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE MINISTERS AND ASSUMING SPAIN DOES NOT BACK DOWN, WILL FOLLOW ACTUAL WAR, BUT WHETHER OR NOT THE FIRST OVERT ACT WILL BE PRECEDED BY A FORMAL DECLARATION OF WAR, WHICH WOULD INSURE THE IMMEDIATE NEUTRALIZATION OF THE POWERS, OR WHETHER THE

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON WILL MAKE ITS APPEARANCE OFF HAVANA AS A BEGINNING, CAN NOT YET BE PREDICTED.

Not an Easy War. In this connection, it may be stated that the army and navy experts are beginning to take a less hopeful view of an easy and quick campaign than they entertained a short time ago. Months are now mentioned instead of weeks as the probable length of hostilities, and one eminent officer who had experience in the late war, professes a belief that unless outside pressure is brought to bear a war may easily drag along for a year, under the existing conditions.

Apparently, the powers have abandoned open efforts in Washington to influence the course of our government. Matters were quiet at all the legations to-day, and no instructions were received by any of the ambassadors or ministers in the line of mediation.

Substance of Ultimatum. "The ultimatum," said one member of the cabinet, after the meeting to-day, "has been agreed upon in substance, but has not yet been formally drawn up. Its preparation has been entrusted to Assistant Secretary Day, of the state department. It will be sent to-morrow and will reach Madrid in the evening, the difference in time between this country and Spain being about six hours. I think you are safe in saying that Spain will be given forty-eight hours, that is until Friday evening to submit her reply."

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE RESOLUTION, THE PRESIDENT WILL DEMAND THAT SPAIN SHALL EVACUATE THE ISLAND. DEMAND FOR THIS WILL BE PLATFOOTED AND ABSOLUTE AND TENTATIVE OR HALF WAY REPLY WILL SATISFY THE PRESIDENT. Nor will any compromise that contemplates the withdrawal of Spanish troops from the island, the subsequent re-establishment of Spanish control or the raising of the Spanish flag over the country be accepted by the administration. Possibly it may be that a suggestion that the matter has been referred to the cortes which meets to-morrow for its consideration may be instrumental in postponing for a brief time the putting into effect of the congressional resolution, but the President is disposed not to brook any further delay. It is only fair that in a great crisis like this reasonable time shall be given."

To Blockade Cuba. "If Spain refuses to evacuate Cuba prompt measures will be adopted to put into force the congressional resolution. A blockade of Cuba, will, so far as at present understood, be begun at once."

"There are an adequate number of war vessels in the vicinity to make this effective. I think such supplies as the Spaniards now control will not last them more than a month. Then steps taken with a view to increasing the equipment of Gomez's soldiers and furnishing them with sufficient hard tack for food will enable him to harass the Spaniards from the rear, which will materially assist in bringing them to terms. My own individual idea is that it will probably take two months to bring about the results which will compel the Spaniards to evacuate and enable the island to be occupied by the United States without molestation."

"No, the United States government will not issue any letters of marque and reprisal nor countenance privateering, but if the Spanish government chooses to enter upon this line of warfare she will have to deal with the nations of Europe, with whose commerce she seeks to interfere."

### WAR PREPARATIONS

Are Being Rushed With Vigor—More Vessels Bought, and Troops are Hurried to Southern Points.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 19.—Military and naval preparations continued to-day with unabated vigor. Seven fleet steam yachts suitable for navigation in Cuban waters were procured and several bids for steam colliers were made. Arrangements are making to utilize a number of the powerful converted smooth-bore guns, survivors of the late war, as armament for the auxiliary cruisers. Many agents for ship owners were at the navy department to-day offering to sell craft to the government, but where the vessels are suitable the prices are said to be excessive and no purchases were made.

The important event in the war department was the decision to enlist only national guardsmen under the first call for troops, which will be very gratifying to the militiamen. Some idea of the cost of transporting troops may be formed from the fact that it was necessary to allot one million dollars to-day to defray the expenses of the movements already ordered. Reports from all over the country this morning indicated that the movements were going on with the most gratifying celerity. A picturesque reminder of the war-like conditions was presented right in Washington by the departure for the south of the Sixth cavalry, and Secretary Alger, busied as he was with official tasks, managed to take time to get to the station to see them off. An allotment of funds for a balloon service shows that the war department does not propose to ignore any of the latest scientific aids to warfare.

First Call of Troops.

The authoritative statement was made at the war department to-day that on the first call for troops only the national guard will be given an opportunity to volunteer for service in war. This statement is in accordance with those made by Secretary Alger to the national guardsmen who called upon him at the war department, on Saturday, when the modified Hull bill for the expansion of the army in time of war was under consideration.

Secretary Alger thinks that such a course is in keeping with sound discretion, and the dictates of common sense, for the organized militia have gone to great expense and have devoted much

time to perfecting themselves for military duty. Any other course, he believes, would be destructive to the best interests of the guard. As far as practicable, the state organizations entering the volunteer service will remain intact, the governors of the various states being permitted as they were in 1861, to designate the regimental officers which will include those of the grades of second lieutenants to colonels. The President will reserve to himself the right to appoint the staff and field officers. Many applications have been made to the war department for permission to volunteer and among men of all creeds, nationalities, and politics, there is an expressed intention and desire to uphold the honor and the integrity of the flag of the republic.

It was stated to-day, that the first call for troops would be for 80,000 men, which, it is believed, will exhaust the entire available strength of the national guard at this time, after deducting those who are sick and otherwise incapacitated for immediate service. The total strength of the guard as reported to the war department is 113,764 men.

Cold-Blooded Extortion.

A great deal of indignation has been expressed by naval officers over the cold-blooded attempts of persons owning vessels or acting as their agents to extort from the government sums of money largely in excess of the value of their craft. The same complaint is also made as to many kinds of military and naval supplies, although it is gratifying to note that in a few exceptional cases, the tube makers and boiler making firms and some ammunition and gun making people, every disposition has been shown to give the government the best terms in price and time of delivery.

The navy department has received satisfactory information that the coal loaded at Newport News upon the British tramp steamer Hampstead is not, as was supposed, intended for the Spanish naval craft at the Cape Verde islands, but is for a line of merchant steamers, so that apprehension from that score has been removed. The department is still reaching out for vessels suitable for colliers, and several cable messages were sent to-day to its agency in Europe looking to the purchase of some of these vessels.

Rear Admiral Sicard reported at the navy department this morning and was immediately assigned a place at the desk in the office of the secretary of the navy to act as official adviser to the secretary. Nearly all naval officers on detached or shore duty have put in applications to be restored immediately to sea service.

There appears to be a mistaken impression in some quarters as to the functions of the Mosquito fleet. It is not destined for shore guard nor yet for attack, but, as explained by one of the naval strategists, the primary use of the vessels of this fleet will be to protect the battleships and other ironclads from attack by torpedo boats and destroyers. The purpose is to create in the navy something like the same system that prevails in the army in conducting hostilities; the battleships correspond to the heavy artillery, the Mosquito fleet to infantry and the torpedo boats to cavalry.

### A TIRED CONGRESS.

The Resolutions Signed by Speaker and Vice President—General Grosvener Makes an Explanation to the House.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Comparatively little business was transacted by the senate to-day, all of the senators being fatigued on account of their long vigil last night over the Cuban resolution. Consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill was resumed and the wide latitude of debate permitted under the rules of the senate afforded opportunity for some explanations to be made concerning the action of the senate upon the Cuban question.

At 12:27 p. m. a message was received from the house of representatives announcing the signature of the speaker to the Cuban resolutions. Eight minutes afterward the vice president announced his signature to the Cuban resolutions. The senate then resumed consideration of the sundry civil bill.

In the course of a dry routine discussion of a minor amendment to the pending bill Mr. Cockrell (Mo.) injected some life into the debate by throwing down the gauntlet to Mr. Hale for some utterances the latter had made during the Cuban debate. He expressed the desire that Mr. Hale would use his great influence to get the Republicans in line upon the pending amendment.

A Snappy Colloquy.

Mr. Hale expressed the hope that all Republicans would be found in solid phalanx in support of the President and their party. "I may be pardoned, too, for expressing the hope," said Mr. Hale, tauntingly, "that all Democrats and all members of other parties shall be found supporting not the President alone, but the country in all patriotic matters."

"I, too, shall welcome the day when men of all parties may join with the President in support of patriotic policies," declared Mr. Cockrell, "but if the President of the United States expects me to be a tail to his kite and to swing along to his coat tails, he will find himself greatly mistaken."

Mr. Cockrell then launched into an extended speech in which he sharply attacked the administration and congress for their action on the Cuban question.

When he referred to the action of the senate and of congress at yesterday's session, Mr. Hale interrupted him to inquire why it was that the Democrats of the senate practically as a body voted against the action for which they had been clamoring for months. "I can understand," he said, "the senator from Missouri may be a trifle sensitive over night."

"Not at all," declared Mr. Cockrell, "I never was more glad of any vote that I ever cast than that I cast in the early hours of this morning. The votes we cast were a manifestation of devotion to principle, to the principles long upheld by the Cuban patriots."

"As a matter of fact," interjected Mr. Spooner, "this whole business was a party play—a Democratic party play—and they can't put men on this side of the chamber in a hole by any exhibition of 'holier than thou' policy on that point."

The house presented a most desolate appearance when it convened at noon, after the weary all-night session.

While the Journal was being read Mr. Hager (Rep., Iowa), chairman of the committee on enrolled bills, brought in the Cuban resolutions, which had been enrolled under his personal direction. The speaker immediately signed them, and as soon as the reading of the Journal was concluded at 12:16 p. m., he announced his signature. There was no demonstration. The enrolling clerk at his side seized the resolutions and hurried with them across the capitol.

Grosvener Explains.

Mr. Grosvener, then, as a question of personal privilege, had read at the clerk's desk an editorial in a New York

paper commenting upon his statement in the house on April 7, that "this war will be fought under the banner of the Republican administration of this government, or it will not be fought at all."

Mr. Grosvener explained the circumstances under which the statement was made. He had been delighted with the record the Democratic party had made, and in the statement he had only meant that as the present administration had three years to run, that the war which was upon us must be fought during its life or not at all. He had had appealed to both sides of the house to stand by the executive who had been assaulted.

"In this connection," concluded Mr. Grosvener, "I desire to say I believe this war will be energetically waged both in a military sense and in the legislation necessary to carry it on, and I believe the response to the call to arms will be unanimous. There will be no political division. It will come from Democrats and Populists as well as from Republicans, and especially do I believe the response to patriotism will come from every southern state, and that the whole Union will share the triumphant echo of loyalty." (Great applause.)

Mr. Dingley stated that in view of the fact that the house had been sitting all night and that the members were weary, he would move to adjourn. Accordingly at 12:32 p. m. the house adjourned.

### STUCK TOGETHER.

West Virginia's Representatives in Congress Unanimous in the Final Vote on the Cuban Resolutions, Although They Differed on Preliminary Tests.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 19.—The West Virginians in Congress were together this morning, in the final ballot on the Cuban resolutions, all voting for the proposition as submitted by the conferees to each house. They had been together, too, on many of the previous ballots, which, in a sense, remarkable, since the question was one upon which a difference could well exist in the adjustment of details, and in which individual opinions and beliefs might be expected to prevail.

Senator Elkins' speech in the afternoon of yesterday was clear cut as to his position. He said he realized that war was inevitable, and his desire was that there should be a united country, not on political, but upon patriotic lines, to support the President in the conduct of an American and not a party war. Referring to his own efforts to secure an honorable peace, he set at rest the charge that he had striven for peace-at-any-price. His plea against a declaration by Congress, in opposition to the President's expressed view of the propriety of recognizing the present government of Cuba, was backed by arguments presented with ability and clearness.

When the senate was called upon to vote to concur in the amendments to the resolution, proposed by the house, with which the public is now familiar, Senators Faulkner and Elkins voted together to concur. Upon the motion to request a second conference between the two houses, they divided. Senator Elkins voting aye, Senator Faulkner no. Later, when the motion was made to ask for further conference, they both voted aye, though the motion was defeated.

In the house Messrs. Dovenor, Dayton and Miller voted steadfastly together. Mr. Dorr, being in favor of recognition of the Cuban republic and on record as an advocate of that action, voted with the minority on the motion to concur in the senate amendment; also in favor of the Bromwell motions in their order to recede from the house position and concur in the senate proposition. In the wind-up, Mr. Dorr, voted with the overwhelming majority and on two other ballots he was with his colleagues.

Before the close of the proceedings in the senate, late in the memorable night, Messrs. Faulkner and Elkins were twice together, voting against the motion to take from the vice president the right to name the conferees, and aye upon the motion to agree to the conference report in which the famous two words "are and," were in the balance.

### THE POWERS

May Take a New Step—Want the War Localized.

LONDON, April 20.—The Rome correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "Italia, the organ of the foreign office, publishes to-night the following note:

The powers are on the eve of taking a new step, namely, requesting the United States and Spain, in the event of war, to localize the hostilities to Cuba, and the neighboring waters. This step will be taken immediately after a declaration of war. Utter pessimism prevails in diplomatic quarters here, the Vatican alone continuing hopeful of peace. The pope is working energetically to be accepted as arbitrator, but he admits that Cuba has already morally ceased to be along to Spain."

Blockade Not Bombardment.

KEY WEST, Fla., April 19.—The naval plan of action, it is understood, has been finally and definitely decided upon. It involves the blockade of Cuba, but not a bombardment of Havana. The blockade will involve no engagements, it is expected, except that the accidental encounters, which, more or less, are bound to occur. The senior naval officers of the fighting squadron believe that Spain is playing a clever game in concentrating her entire naval forces at a distance from the immediate scene of action.

Trouble Expected.

LONDON, April 20.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, telegraphing Tuesday says: "Popular indignation against the attitude of the United States is increasing day by day, more especially in the big towns like Barcelona, and in spite of the government having energetically repressed all such demonstration, it is always within the bounds of possibility that at some place or other deplorable events may occur."

Movements of Steamships.

ROTTERDAM—Arrived: Rotterdam, from New York.

LIVERPOOL—Arrived: Catalonia, from Boston.

GLASGOW—Arrived: Furnessia, from New York.

ANTWERP—Arrived: Noordland, from New York.

Weather Forecast for To-day.

For West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania, fair and colder Wednesday; fresh westerly winds. For Ohio, fair Wednesday; fresh northwesterly winds.

## ABOUT GIVES IT UP.

The Spanish Minister has Made His Final Preparations

FOR HIS DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON.

Will Transfer the Archives of the Office to the French Embassy—The Met-

al Sign of the Legation Wrenched from its Place by Vandals—Minister

Makes no Complaint—Sagasta's Address to the Government Support-

ers Last Night Precludes any Idea of Peace—Calls the Action of Con-

gress an Infamous Insult—Spain Will Make no More Concessions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 19.—THE SPANISH MINISTER, SENOR POLO DE BERNABE HAS MADE HIS FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR DEPARTURE, AND IS CALMLY AWAITING NOTIFICATION THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS AFFIXED HIS SIGNATURE TO THE CUBAN RESOLUTION, AT WHICH TIME THE MINISTER WILL TAKE HIS LEAVE.

He had expected this would come to-day, and every arrangement had been made with that in view. Now that the signing is deferred until to-morrow, it is not probable that the minister and his staff will depart before another twenty-four hours pass by. He will not move precipitately, however, as the transfer of the legation archives and effects to the French embassy must first be accomplished, and moreover there is felt to be no disposition on the part of the authorities here to unduly hasten the movements of the minister.

Whether the state department will send Senator Polo his passports, or he will ask for them, is felt to be an immaterial detail. He intends to go without reference to these formalities, and there is every reason to believe the state department will afford him the protection of passports and any further attentions usual in enforced departure of a minister on the breaking out of war. The entire staff of the legation will accompany the minister.

The Spanish legation has been the centre of great activity throughout to-day. The minister was up practically all of last night, retiring shortly before daylight this morning after having informed his government of the final passage of the Cuban resolution. He was again at his desk by 9 a. m., communicating with his government, and awaiting the next and final move in making the resolution effective. Although of sturdy physique, the minister showed signs of the intense strain and anxiety put upon him during the last few days. He saw a number of friends, mainly of the diplomatic corps, and to them expressed the view that all hope of a peaceful settlement appeared to be at an end, and that Spain now left with the United States the responsibility for war.

Early this morning the large metal sign, bearing the words "Office of the Spanish Legation," was wrenched from its place on the gate leading to the legation, and carried off by vandals. The minister made no complaint to the state department or to the police, as he has sought to minimize the petty depredations against the legation, although this was the most flagrant one committed.

The representatives of the powers of Europe held no meeting during the day, nor is any meeting at present in prospect. Those who have been most hopeful of bringing about European coalition, now concede that such a move is impossible. One of the best posted members of the diplomatic corps stated to-night that it was now too late for mediation or intervention, even if the powers could be brought together. It was recognized on all hands, he said, that the United States and Spain had chosen a recourse to war.

It is said Great Britain has taken steps, not only to maintain a passive neutrality, but to enforce it with arms, if necessary.

### THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

Will Claim That Spain Has Done Everything She Could for Peace, While the United States Has Interfered in Her Domestic Relations With Her Colonies.

LONDON, April 20.—The Madrid correspondent of the Standard telegraphing Tuesday, says:

"I understand the speech from the throne will review the whole course of the relations between Spain and the United States with a view of showing how Spain in her relations with America and her treatment of the West Indian colonies has spared no effort to make concessions and reforms compatible with her rights, to conciliate her colonists and to preserve friendly relations with America; whereas, the United States have all along persisted in seeking to interfere in the purely domestic relations of Spain with her colonies, and have persisted more than ever, since the advent to office of President McKinley, in menaces and diplomatic notes, trying to intervene in the settlement of Cuban question."

"The government will lay stress upon the fact that America has displayed increased virulence and hostility since Spain granted a suspension of hostilities at the request of the pope and powers. It will make an earnest appeal to the nation and to all parties to be true to the national traditions, to gather around the throne and to vote the supplies necessary to defend the honor and territory of Spain."

At the present moment, Spain, though essentially a military nation is making naval preparations because everybody fully comprehends that in the struggle with the United States the fate of Cuba and the duration of the war will entirely depend upon the respective navies.

The first available squadron is now at Cape Verde, under admiral Corvero, who went out with the cruisers Infanta Marie Terese and Cristobal Colon and has been joined there by the cruisers Vizcaya and Almirante Oquendo, with a view to protecting the torpedo flotilla. This squadron is considered quite a match for the flying squadron of America and may be ordered to pay an unpleasant visit to North American ports if war breaks out.

A second squadron will be formed at Cadix, where Admiral Churruarín, descendant of the Spanish commander at Trafalgar, is busy preparing the fleet. The idea is to concentrate, as soon as they are ready, the battleships Pelaya, now at Cartagena, Emperador Carlos V now at Ferrol, Gardinal Cisneros and the Numancia and Victoria, broadside

ships, the cruisers Alfonso XIII, and the Princess Mercedes, the torpedo cruiser Maria Motin, three destroyers just received from England, and three torpedo vessels—which would make a respectable gathering.

### "AN INFAMOUS CALUMNY."

Is What Premier Sagasta Calls the Action of Congress—Says Spain has Reached the Utmost Limits of Concession.

MADRID, via PARIS, April 19.—The supporters of the government in both houses of parliament met in the senate chamber at 6 o'clock this afternoon. Senator Sagasta, the premier, addressed them as follows:

"The times are so grave and the circumstances are so exceptional that acts and not words are necessary to face the present difficulties. Attempts are being made to sully the history of Spain by an infamous calumny. The different Spanish governments have done their utmost to avert the war to which we are being provoked. We have now reached the limits of concession, compatible with honor and territorial integrity."

"We consented to the last concession at the instance of the pope and the powers. We yielded in fact; but, now attempts are made upon our honor, and menaces directed against our territory. This is a thing to which Spaniards will never consent." (Applause.)

"This is not the moment to trace a parliamentary programme but the moment to unite ourselves, as our fathers have done, in the face of an odious attempt against the integrity of our territory. The insult offered us to-day is the most infamous that has ever been offered." (Prolonged applause.)

Continuing, Senator Sagasta counselled the rapid constitution of the chambers in order to accord to the government the means to defend the country's interests. "Spain," he added, "will not allow a parcel of her territory to be taken from her with impunity; nor will she be a party to any trafficking for her possessions." (Prolonged and enthusiastic cheering greeted the speech.)

The ministers met to-day to modify the speech from the throne in conformity with the situation. Senator Silvela, the leader of the dissident Conservative, then addressing his party, declared it "inopportune to formulate a political programme."

He declared that the dissident Conservatives would respect whatever financial arrangement the government might enter into, no matter what this might cost, as it was the "only means of securing later on peace with honor."

### THE SCENE SHIFTS.

The Consensus of Opinion in Madrid is That War is Inevitable—An Appeal to Castelar.

MADRID, April 19.—The one absorbing topic is the prospect of war.

El Heraldo de Madrid says that war is inevitable and even imminent. Even the forthcoming meeting of parliament is unheeded.

El Heraldo compares the "indifference of the mass of the people," to "Musselman fatality," considering it highly dangerous and fearing a terrible reaction.

The paper says a serious task lies before parliament, which it hopes will prove equal to "facing the great dangers now gathering around Spain."

The impartial to-day commenting upon the commercial aspect of the war, which it regards as certain, "as soon as President McKinley stops vacillating," says: "The Americans who are rushing into war will be surprised to find that it is not an affair of weeks, but of months. It will last until the commercials are more anxious for peace than they are now anxious for war."

The Liberal says: "The Spaniards are tired of talk of papal and other interventions. War is a matter of hours, in spite of the rumors of delays upon President McKinley's part."

Continuing, the Liberal urges Spain to stop argument, adding: "The time has come for blows and not for words."

This evening the parties constituting the cortes held their preliminary meetings. Senator Silvela presided over the meeting of the Conservative minority. In the course of his remarks he advised all Conservatives to support the government.

An Appeal to Castelar.

The party has sent a message to Senator Emilio Castelar appealing to his patriotism to take part in the parliamentary campaign. The communication points out that "during the present situation it is the duty of Republicans to maintain an expectant attitude toward the monarchy, but at the same time to stand ready to make the sacrifices demanded by patriotism in the face of a powerful enemy, for the defense of Spanish sovereignty over Cuba, the preservation of which is demanded by the history, security and rights of Spain."

An official note issued this afternoon says negotiations are actively proceeding with between the colonial government of Cuba and the insurgents of that island, with the view of obtaining the submission of the latter as a result of further concessions regarding autonomy.

The terms of the speech which the queen regent will deliver at the opening of the cortes to-morrow are jealously guarded, but it is said that the speech will prove firm, convincing and satisfactory to the national sentiments. It is claimed here that perfect unanimity prevails in Spain to face war rather than yield to the demands of the United States.

Agitation at Porto Rico.

ST. THOMAS, West Indies, April 19.—Advices received here from Porto Rico to-day, show there is agitation there with the object of forcing naturalized